

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A process for decomposing a polymer into a monomer or oligomer, comprising: by hydrolysis

hydrolyzing a polymer with sub- or supercritical water, characterized in that at least a part of the polymer [[is]] being a polymer comprising a constitutional unit derived from an organic acid in the molecular structure, and the polymer being contacted with sub- or supercritical water in the presence of a water-insoluble base,

wherein the water-insoluble base comprises at least one compound selected from the group consisting of CaCO₃, BaCO₃ and Ca(OH)₂.

Claim 2 (original): A process according to claim 1, wherein at least a part of the polymer is a polyester.

Claim 3 (original): A process according to claim 1, wherein the polymer is a polyester having no chlorine in the molecular structure.

Claims 4-16 (canceled)

Claim 17 (new): A process according to claim 1, wherein the water-insoluble base comprises at least CaCO₃.